



**DeSmet School District #20**  
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting  
6:00 pm Monday, February 26th, 2024  
In the School Library

**Trustees Present:** Aaron Foster, Heather Burgad, Synthia Wendell  
**Trustees Absent:** Jasmine Dahlquist  
**Others Present:** Sigrid Sheie

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**I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

Board Chair Aaron Foster called the meeting to order at 6:06pm.

**II. Introduction/Comments of Guests on Items not on the Agenda**

**III. Recognition of Students and Staff**

Superintendent Driessen relayed that DeSmet's early education program was nominated for a state award. He relayed that prior to the kindergarten readiness program, approximately 60% of the students were not ready for kindergarten upon enrollment, which would subsequently take several years for those students to catch up academically. After introducing this early education program, approximately 83% of new students are considered socially and emotionally ready for kindergarten and only 7% are not ready for kindergarten, compared to 30-40% in comparable districts.

**IV. Board Correspondence**

A. Correspondence from Sigrid Sheie and Appointment as Interim Trustee [\[Letter\]](#)

The board reviewed Sigrid Sheie's letter of intent to serve on the board for the interim position and 3-year term on the upcoming school Trustee election. A motion was made first by Synthia Wendell to appoint Sigrid Sheie to fill the vacant position until the next regular school election. This motion was seconded by Heather Burgad and carried unanimously.

B. Correspondence from Kris Gardner, DEA President, addressing Union Member Comments [\[Letter\]](#)

The board reviewed Kris Gardner's letter addressing comments made by a union member at a previous meeting, and noted that the individual's comments were not representative of the union as a whole, but rather the sole individual.

## **V. Business Manager's Report**

### **A. Approve/Disapprove: Minutes**

A motion was made first by Synthia Wendell to approve the minutes from 1.22.24 and 2.6.24. This motion was seconded by Heather Burgad and carried unanimously.

### **B. Approve/Disapprove: Warrants**

The board reviewed the February Warrants. A motion was made first by Synthia Wendell to approve the February warrants. The motion was seconded by Heather Burgad and carried unanimously.

### **C. Discussion: Budget Report**

Freyja Hughes reviewed budget reports with trustee attendance.

### **D. Discussion: Preliminary Budget Meeting**

Ms. Hughes relayed that preliminary budget figures would be discussed at the next regular board meeting, and that the board would need to approve levy estimates for publication scheduled for the end of the month.

### **E. Approve/Disapprove: Bond Election Resolution (Updated by Legal)**

[\[Updated Resolution\]](#)

A motion was made first by Heather Burgad and seconded by Synthia Wendell to approve the Bond Election Resolution v3. This motion was carried unanimously.

## **VI. Superintendent's Report**

[\[Annotated Superintendent's Report\]](#)

### **A. Discussion: Student Spring Count for ANB**

Superintendent Driessen discussed the Spring Count for ANB and the current enrollment of 133 students, and discussed the enrollment increase trends.

### **B. Approval/Disapproval: Update to Board Policy 3141**

A motion to update Board Policy 3141 as proposed by Superintendent Driessen was made first by Heather Burgad. The motion was seconded by Synthia Wendell and carried unanimously.

### **C. Discussion/Approval/Disapproval: ESSER Purchases and Allocations**

Superintendent Driessen and Freyja Hughes reviewed district ESSER Purchases and Allocations

year to date. A motion was made first by Heather Burgad and seconded by Synthia Wendell to approve the year-to-date ESSER purchases and allocations. This motion was carried unanimously.

#### D. Discussion: Summer Program

Superintendent Driessen relayed that the Boys and Girls Club will no longer be running a summer program at DeSmet. He also discussed the costs of the summer program and historical grant funding that has sustained the program in previous years. Mr. Driessen mentioned that the school did apply for additional Schoolwide Title funds for the purpose of funding a summer program, although the money has not been disbursed yet from OPI. He indicated that even with additional Title funds, however, the district would still need to acquire additional funding in order to keep this summer program going.

Mrs. Sheie indicated concern over the impact of discontinuing the summer program. Mr. Driessen relayed again that the main challenge was funding, and that he has been looking for comparable summer programs to offer, but that a suitable alternative has not yet been found at this time.

### **VII. Personnel Report**

Board Chair Aaron Foster called for a brief recess of the session at 7:11pm, and declared that the board would enter executive session upon resuming. The board resumed in executive session at 7:17pm.

#### A. Superintendent Evaluation

[\[Evaluation Form\]](#)

The board resumed in open session at 8:19pm. The board wished to reflect that Mr. Driessen has excelled at serving as the district's Chief Executive Officer and educational leader, acting as an advocate for the district and individuals at the school, collaborating with the board, staff, and community members, and overseeing the facility management of the school in a proactive and fiscally responsible manner. Mr. Driessen thanked the board for their support and understanding of his position and their evaluation.

### **VIII. Committee Updates**

**IX. Upcoming Meetings**

A. 6:00 pm Thursday, March 14th

\*The board would normally meet on the third Monday of the month, but the meeting was moved to the following week due to Spring Break.

**X. Comments of Guest & School Board Members on Items Not on the Agenda**

**XI. Adjourn**

A unanimous motion to adjourn was made at 8:21pm.

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Date Approved

Respectfully submitted,

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District Clerk

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Board Chair